CLAIMS

1. An isolated polynucleotide comprising the sequence encoding an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NOs:1-122, fragments of at least 15 contiguous nucleotides thereof, and sequences complementary thereto.

2. The polynucleotide of Claim 1, comprising the coding sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs:123-138.

3. An isolated nucleic acid comprising a polynucleotide having at least 95% nucleotide identity with a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs:123-138, or a sequence complementary thereto or a biologically active fragment thereof.

4. An isolated polypeptide comprising at least 6 contiguous amino acids of a protein sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1-122, wherein said polypeptide has biological activity.

5. The polypeptide of Claim 4, wherein said polypeptide comprises the protein sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs:1-122.

6. An isolated polypeptide, wherein said polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence which shares more than about 60% but less than 100% homology with the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs:1-122.

7. The polypeptide of Claim 4 or 6, wherein said polypeptide is fused to a heterologous polypeptide sequence.

8. An anti-Novel Plasma Polypeptide (NPP) antibody that specifically binds to the polypeptide of Claim 4 or 6.

9. A method of binding an antibody to a Novel Plasma Polypeptide (NPP) comprising the steps of:
   i) contacting the antibody of Claim 8 with a biological sample under conditions that permit antibody binding; and
   ii) removing contaminants.

10. The method of Claim 9, wherein said antibody is attached to a label group.

11. The method of Claim 9, wherein said biological sample is human plasma.

12. A method of screening for and /or diagnosis of a cardiovascular disorder in a subject, comprising the steps of:

i) detecting and /or quantifying the level of the polypeptide of Claim 4 or 6 in a biological sample from said subject; and

ii) comparing said level to that of a control sample,

wherein a difference in said level relative to that of the control is indicative of a cardiovascular disorder.

13. A method of predicting a cardiovascular disorder in a subject, comprising the steps of:

i) detecting and /or quantifying the level of the polypeptide of Claim 4 or 6 in a biological sample from said subject; and

ii) comparing said level to that of a control sample,

wherein a difference in said level relative to that of the control indicates a risk of developing a cardiovascular disorder.

14. A method for monitoring / assessing the treatment of a cardiovascular disorder in a patient, which comprises the steps of:

i) detecting and/or quantifying the level of the polypeptide of Claim 4 or 6 in a biological sample from said patient;

ii) comparing said level to that of a biological sample obtained from said patient at an earlier time.

15. The method of any one of Claims 12-14, wherein said cardiovascular disorder is Coronary Artery Disease (CAD).

16. The method of any one of Claims 12-15, wherein said biological sample is plasma.

17. The method of any one of Claims 12-16, wherein the level of two or more polypeptides of Claim 4 or 6 are detected and/or quantified in a biological sample from a patient.

18. The method of any one of Claims 12-17, wherein said detecting and /or quantifying the level of the polypeptide in a biological sample is performed ex vivo.

19. The method of any one of Claims 12-18, wherein said polypeptide is detected and /or quantified by mass spectrometry.

20. The method of any one of Claims 12-18, wherein said polypeptide is detected and /or quantified by Enzyme-Linked Immuno Sorbent Assay.

21. A method of identifying a Novel Plasma Polypeptide (NPP) modulator comprising the steps of:

i) contacting a test compound with a biological sample;

ii) detecting the level or assessing at least one biological activity of a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs:1-122 present in said biological sample;

iii) comparing said level or at least one biological activity to that of a control sample lacking said test compound,

wherein a change in said level or at least one biological activity relative to that of the control indicates that said test compound is a NPP modulator.

22. A method of identifying a modulator of a cardiovascular disorder comprising the steps of:

(a) administering a candidate agent to a non-human test animal which is predisposed to be affected or which is affected by the cardiovascular disorder;

(b) administering the candidate agent of (a) to a matched control non-human animal not predisposed to be affected or not being affected by the cardiovascular disorder;

(c) detecting and /or quantifying the level of at least one polypeptide in a biological sample obtained from the non-human test animal of step (a) and from the control animal of step (b), wherein the at least one polypeptide is selected from:

i) a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs:1-122;

ii) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence which shares more than about 60% but less than 100% homology with the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs:1-122; and

iii) a polypeptide comprising at least 6 contiguous amino acids of a protein sequence as defined in i) or ii); and

(d) comparing the levels of the at least one polypeptide of step (c); wherein a displacement of the level of the at least one polypeptide in the biological sample obtained from the non-human test animal towards the level of the at least one polypeptide in the biological sample obtained from the control animal indicates that the candidate agent is a modulator of the cardiovascular disorder.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the non-human test animal which is predisposed to be affected or which is affected by the cardiovascular disorder comprises an altered plasma level of at least one polypeptide selected from:

i) a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs:1-122;

ii) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence which shares more than about 60% but less than 100% homology with the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs:1-122; and

iii) a polypeptide comprising at least 6 contiguous amino acids of a protein sequence as defined in i) or ii).

24. A method for monitoring the efficacy of a treatment of a subject having or at risk of developing a cardiovascular disorder with an agent, the method comprising:

(a) obtaining a pre-administration biological sample from the subject prior to administration of the agent;

(b) detecting and /or quantifying the level of at least one polypeptide in the biological sample from said subject, wherein the at least one polypeptide is selected from:

i) a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs:1-122;

ii) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence which shares more than about 60% but less than 100% homology with the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs:1-122; and

iii) a polypeptide comprising at least 6 contiguous amino acids of a protein sequence as defined in i) or ii); and

(c) obtaining one or more post-administration biological samples from the subject;

(d) detecting the level of the at least one polypeptide in the post-administration sample or samples;

(e) comparing the level of the at least one polypeptide in the pre-administration sample with the level of the polypeptide in the post- administration sample; and

(f) adjusting the administration of the agent accordingly.